

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VIRG.

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INTERESTING.

THE WIFE.

The treasures of the deep are not so precious
As are the concealed comforts of man
Lock'd up in woman's love. I scent the air
Of blessings, when I come but near the house.
What a delicious breath marriage sends forth—
The violet bed's not sweeter. MIDDLETON.

I have often had occasion to remark the fortitude with which women sustain the most overwhelming reverses of fortune. Those disasters which break down the spirit of man, and prostrate him in the dust, seem to call forth all the energies of the softer sex, and give such intrepidity and elevation to their character, that at times it approaches to sublimity. Nothing can be more touching than to behold a soft and tender female, who had been all weakness and dependence, and alive to every trivial roughness while treading the prosperous paths of life, suddenly rising in mental force, to be the comforter and supporter of her husband, under misfortune, and abiding with unshrinking firmness, the bitterest blasts of adversity.

As the vine which has long twined its graceful foliage around the oak, and been lifted by it into sunshine, will when the hardy plant is rifted by the thunderbolt, cling round it with its caressing tendrils, and bind up its shattered boughs; so is it beautifully ordered by Providence, that woman, who is the mere dependant and ornament of man in his happier hours, should be his stay and solace when smitten with sudden calamity, winding herself into the rugged recesses of his nature, tenderly supporting the drooping head, and binding up the broken heart.

I was once congratulating a friend, who had around him a blooming family, knit together in the strongest affection. "I can wish you no better lot," said he, with enthusiasm, "than to have a wife and children—if you are prosperous, there they are, to share your prosperity; if otherwise, there they are to comfort you." And, indeed, I have observed that married men falling into misfortune, are more apt to retrieve their situation in the world than single men; partly because they are more stimulated to exertion by the necessities of the helpless and beloved beings who depend upon them for subsistence; but chiefly because their spirits are soothed and relieved by domestic endearments, and their self respect kept alive by finding, that though all abroad is darkness and humiliation, yet there is still a little world of love, of which they are monarchs.—Where a single man is apt to run to waste and self neglect; to fancy himself lonely and abandoned, and his heart to fail to ruin like some deserted mansion, for want of an inhabitant.

These observations call to mind a little domestic story, of which I was once a witness. My intimate friend, Leslie, had married a beautiful and accomplished girl, who had been brought up

in the midst of fashionable life. She had, it is true, no fortune, but that of my friend was ample; and he delighted in the anticipation of indulging her in every elegant pursuit, and administering to those delicate tastes and fancies, that spread a kind of witchery about the sex.—"Her life," said he, "shall be like a fairy tale."

The very difference in their characters produced a harmonious combination: he was of a romantic, and somewhat, serious, cast; she was all life and gladness. I have often noticed the mute rapture with which he would gaze upon her in company, of which her sprightly powers made her the delight; and how, in the midst of applause, her eye would still turn to him, as if there alone she sought favour and acceptance.—When leaning on his arm, her slender form contrasted finely with his tall, manly person. The fond confiding air with which she looked up to him, seemed to call forth a flush of triumphant pride and cherishing tenderness, as if he doated on his lovely burthen for its very helplessness.—Never did a couple set forward on the flowery path of early and well-suited marriage with a fairer prospect of felicity.

It was the mishap of my friend, however, to have embarked his fortune in large speculations; and he had not been married many months, when by a succession of sudden disasters, it was swept from him, and he found himself reduced almost to penury. For a time he kept his situation to himself, and went about with a haggard countenance, and a breaking heart. His life was but a protracted agony; and what rendered it more insupportable, was the necessity of keeping up a smile in the presence of his wife, for he could not bring himself to overwhelm her with the news. She saw, however, with the quick eyes of affection, that all was not well with him. She marked his altered looks and stifled sighs, and was not to be deceived by his sickly and vapid attempts at cheerfulness. She tasked all her sprightly powers and tender blandishments to win him back to happiness; but she only drove the arrow deeper into his soul. The more he saw cause to love her, the more torturing was the thought that he was soon to make her wretched. A little while, thought he, and the smile will vanish from that cheek—the song will die away from those lips—the lustre of those eyes will be quenched with sorrow; and the happy heart which now beats lightly in that bosom, will be weighed down, like mine, by the cares and miseries of the world.

At length he came to me one day, and related his whole situation in the tone of the deepest despair. When I had heard him through, I inquired, "does your wife know all this?"—At the question he burst into an agony of tears.—"For God's sake," cried he, "if you have any pity on me, do not mention my wife; it is the thought of her that drives me almost to madness?"

"And why not?" said I. "She must know it

sooner or later: you cannot keep it long from her, and the intelligence may break upon her in a more startling manner, than if imparted by yourself; for the accents of those we love soften the harshest tidings. Besides you are depriving yourself of the comforts of her sympathy, and not merely that, but also endangering the only bond that can keep hearts together—an unreserved community of thought and feeling. She will soon perceive that something is secretly preying upon your mind; and true love will not brook reserve, but feels undervalued and outraged, when even the sorrows of those it loves are concealed from it."

"Oh! but, my friend! to think what a blow I am to give to all her future prospects—how I am to strike her very soul to the earth, by telling her that her husband is a beggar that she is to forego all the elegancies of life—all the pleasures of society—to sink with me into indigence and obscurity! To tell her that I have dragged her down from the sphere in which she might have continued to move in constant brightness—the light of every eye—the admiration of every heart!—How can she bear poverty? she has been brought up in all the refinements of opulence. How can she bear neglect? she has been the idol of society. Oh, it will break her heart, it will break her heart!"

I saw his grief was eloquent, and I let it have its flow, for sorrow relieves itself by words.—When his paroxysm had subsided, and he had relapsed into moody silence, I resumed the subject gently and urged him to break his situation at once to his wife. He shook his head mournfully, but positively.

"But how are you to keep it from her? It is necessary she should know it, that you may take the steps proper to the alteration of your circumstances. You must change your stile of living—nay," observing a pang to pass across his countenance, "do not let that afflict you. I am sure you have never placed your happiness in outward show—you have yet friends, warm friends, who will not think the worse of you for being less splendidly lodged; and surely it does not require a palace to be happy with Mary."

"I could be happy with her," cried he convulsively, "in a hovel!—I could go down with her into poverty and the dust!—I could—I could—God bless her! God bless her!" cried he, bursting into a transport of grief and tenderness.

"And believe me, my friend," said I, stepping up, and grasping him warmly by the hand, "believe me, she can be the same with you. Aye more: it will be a source of pride and triumph to her—it will call forth all the latent energies and fervent sympathies of her nature, for she will rejoice to prove that she loves you for yourself. There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad day light of prosperity; but which kindles up, and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adver-

sity. No man knows what the wife of his bosom is—no man knows what a ministering angel she is—until he has gone with her through the fiery trials of this world.

There was something in the earnestness of manner, and the figurative style of my language, that caught the excited imagination of Leslie. I knew the auditor I had to deal with; and following up the impression I had made, I finished by persuading him to go home and unburden his sad heart to his wife.

I must confess, notwithstanding all I had said, I felt some solicitude for the result. Who can calculate on the fortitude of one whose life has been a round of pleasures? Her gay spirits might revolt at the dark, downward path of low humility, suddenly pointed out before her, and might cling to the sunny regions in which they had hitherto revelled. Besides, ruin in fashionable life is accompanied by so many galling mortifications, to which in other ranks, it is a stranger. In short, I could not meet Leslie, the next morning, without trepidation. He had made the disclosure.

'And how did she bear it?'

'Like an angel! It seemed rather to be a relief to her mind, for she threw her arms around my neck, and asked if this was all that had lately made me unhappy—but, poor girl,' added he, 'she cannot realize the change we must undergo. She has no idea of poverty but in the abstract: she has only read of it in poetry, where it is allied to love. She feels as yet no privation: she experiences no want of accustomed conveniences or elegancies. When we come particularly to experience its sordid cares, its paltry wants, its petty humiliations—then will be the real trial.'

'But,' said I, 'now that you have got over the severest task, that of breaking it to her, the sooner you let the world into the secret the better. The disclosure may be mortifying; but then it is a single misery, and soon over, whereas you otherwise suffer it, in anticipation, every hour in the day. It is not poverty, so much as pretence, that harasses a ruined man—the struggle between a proud mind and an empty purse—the keeping up a hollow show that must soon come to an end. Have the courage to appear poor, and you disarm poverty of its sharpest sting.' On this point I found Leslie perfectly prepared. He had no false pride himself, and as to his wife, she was only anxious to conform to their altered fortunes.

Some days afterwards he called upon me in the evening. He had disposed of his dwelling house, and taken a small cottage in the country, a few miles from town. He had been busied all day in sending out furniture. The new establishment required few articles, and those of the simplest kind. All the splendid furniture of his late residence had been sold, excepting his wife's harp. That, he said, was too closely associated with the idea of herself; it belonged to the little story of their loves; for some of the sweetest moments of their courtship were those when he had leaned over that instrument listening to the melting tones of her voice. I could not but smile at this instance of romantic gallantry in a dotting husband.

He was now going out to the cottage, where his wife had been all day, superintending its arrangement. My feeling had become strongly

interested in the progress of his family story, and as it was evening, I offered to accompany him.

He was wearied with the fatigues of the day, and as we walked out, fell into a fit of gloomy musing.

'Poor Mary!' at length broke, with a heavy sigh, from his lips.

'And what of her,' asked I, 'has any thing happened to her?'

'What,' said he, darting an impatient glance, 'is it nothing to be reduced to this paltry situation—to be caged in a miserable cottage—to be obliged to toil almost in the menial concerns of her wretched habitation?'

'Has she then repined at the change?'

'Repined! she has been nothing but sweetness and good humour. Indeed, she seems in better spirits than I have ever known her; she has been to me all love, and tenderness, and comfort!'

'Admirable girl!' exclaimed I. 'You call yourself poor, my friend; you never were so rich—you never knew the boundless treasures of excellence you possessed in that woman.'

'Oh, but my friend, if this first meeting at the cottage, were over, I think I could then be comfortable. But this is her first day of real experience: she has been introduced into an humble dwelling—she has been employed all day arranging its miserable equipments—she has for the first time known the fatigues of domestic employment—she has for the first time looked around her on a home destitute of every thing elegant, and almost convenient; and may now be sitting down, exhausted and spiritless, brooding over a prospect of future poverty.'

There was a degree of probability in this picture that I could not gainsay, so we walked on in silence.

After turning from the main road, up a narrow lane, so thickly shaded by forest trees, as to give it a complete air of seclusion, we came in sight of the cottage. It was humble enough in its appearance for the most pastoral poet; and yet it had a pleasing rural look. A wild vine had overrun one end with a profusion of foliage; a few trees threw their branches gracefully over it; and I observed several pots of flowers tastefully disposed about the door, and on the grass plot in front. A small wicket gate opened upon a foot-path that wound through some shrubbery to the door. Just as we approached, we heard the sound of music—Leslie grasped my arm; we paused and listened. It was Mary's voice, in a style of the most touching simplicity, singing a little air of which her husband was peculiarly fond.

I felt Leslie's hand tremble on my arm. He stepped forward, to hear more distinctly. His step made a noise on the gravel walk. A bright beautiful face glanced out of the window, and vanished—a light footstep was heard—and Mary came tripping forth to meet us. She was in a pretty rural dress of white; a few wild flowers were twisted in her fine hair; a fresh bloom was on her cheek; her whole countenance beamed with smiles—I had never seen her look so lovely.

'My dear George,' cried she, 'I am so glad you are come; I've been watching and watching for you, and running down the lane, and looking out for you. I've set out a table under a beautiful tree behind the cottage; and I have been gathering some of the most delicious strawber-

ries, for I know you are fond of them—and we have such excellent cream—and every thing is so sweet and still here—Oh!' said she, putting her arm within his, and looking up brightly in his face, 'Oh, we shall be so snug!'

Poor Leslie was overcome.—He caught her to his bosom—he folded his arms around her—he kissed her again and again—he could not speak, but the tears gushed into his eyes. And he has often assured me, that though the world has since gone prosperously with him, and his life has been a happy one, yet never has he experienced a moment of such unutterable felicity.

AGRICULTURE.

From the Memoirs of the Agricultural Society of Virginia.

ON INDIAN CORN.

A paper presented by Wilson C. Nicholas, Vice-President.

Many experienced farmers (and among others the highly distinguished president of the Agricultural Society of Pennsylvania) are of opinion, that wheat ought not to be sown upon cornland. I presume this opinion was formed when the practice was to sow upon our corn fields when they were hard and foul, with the corn standing, and with a slight ploughing with a single horse plough. In any rotation of crops, if the corn land is manured and the corn taken off so as to admit of the land being well ploughed, and seeded in good time, I consider it good husbandry. Corn is not so mild or meliorating a fallow crop as some others; but it is of so much value as to justify its culture in this way, even if more indulgence is given to the land in other parts of the course. Mr. Arthur Young, who was less acquainted with the nature of corn than we are, speaks of it as an excellent fallow crop. I beg leave to state to the society, the opinion of that gentleman in his own words; when speaking of the agriculture of France he says, "when I give the course of the French crops, it will be found, that the only good husbandry in the kingdom, (some small and very rich districts excepted) arises from the possession and management of this plant (corn.) Where there is no maize, there are fallows; and where there are fallows the people starve for want. For the inhabitants of a country to live upon a plant, which is a preparation for wheat, and at the same time to keep their cattle fat upon the leaves of it, is to possess a treasure, for which they are indebted to their climate." In another part of his work, Mr. Young says, "whatever merit is found in French agriculture, depends on one of those two points, either upon extraordinary fertility of soil, as in the case of Flanders, Alsace, and the Garonne, or on the culture of a plant particularly adapted to the southern or middle climates of the kingdom; that is maize;" which plant he says is never found on hard or even ordinary soils, I have before given it as my opinion that the quantity of land that should be planted in corn ought to be confined to what a farmer can manure on rich bottoms. Upon such land if it can be seeded in good order and in good time, I believe, with Mr. Young, corn will be found a good fallow crop. This I understand to be the opinion

of the president of this society, whose authority is entitled to the highest respect. Upon a Virginia farm with the force usually employed, I hazard nothing in saying, that more land can be sown in wheat than can be cultivated in corn, as the preparation for wheat is chiefly made after the culture of corn is over. My opinion therefore is, that our wheat crops in the wheat counties, must be made both upon corn land and clover fallows.* Whether it is proper or not to sow wheat upon corn land, so great a proportion of the people of Virginia, rely upon that sort of land for their crops of wheat, that any management that promises to increase the crop of wheat after corn, would be useful, and I have no doubt will be well received. It is but a few years since the practice was universal to sow wheat among the standing corn; that practice is now and properly so generally exploded, that it is rare to see a field managed in that way. The corn is now cut up and stacked in the field, or hauled off at once, and the land ploughed before it is seeded. The only objection to this is, that it makes the seeding too late, so that the wheat has not sufficient strength of root to bear the alternate freezing and thawing of our irregular winters; it is less able to resist the fly in the spring and more subject to rust, and the more common calamity in this climate of ripening too suddenly: the inevitable consequence of which is the grain being light and shrivelled. The importance of sowing wheat in proper time upon land in good order, is known to every farmer. It usually makes the difference of a good or a saving crop, and one that will not pay the expense of seed and culture. Until we had to combat with that most formidable foe the *Hessian Fly*, our seed time was ample; wheat was sowed from the middle of August to the middle of October. The opinion now is, that there is little chance for wheat to escape the fly in the fall, if it is sown earlier than the 8th or 10th of October, and as little of its preservation from the same enemy in the spring, if sown after October. Twenty days, subject to a deduction for Sundays and for rain, would reduce the seeding time to 12 or 15 days. To this society, it is unnecessary to say, that it is impracticable to accomplish the cutting up the corn, the stacking, hauling it off, and to plough and seed all the wheat land of a farm in that time, with or without fallows; and to do it in a way that would justify the expectation of a crop. If it shall be found that the Lawler wheat does resist the fly after it is generally sown, it will be a treasure (if in no other way) in lengthening the seed time. If we could safely sow two weeks earlier than we do, it would add immensely to the crop in all the clay country; but I fear when there shall be no other wheat seeded, it will be found, that grain will be as subject to destruction as rye is, when there is no wheat for this insect to make use of in propagating itself. I offer to the society the result of an experiment I made last year upon half a field of a hundred acres of corn, that was highly satisfactory, as it enabled me to sow my corn land in better time and in better order than I could have done in any other mode.

I have been long apprized of a practice, which

* These are not the fallows so justly reprobated by Mr. Young, the French course he speaks of, is wheat, fallow, rye.

I believe commenced on the South Branch of the Potomac, and has now spread itself considerably, of cutting down corn and stacking it, precisely at the time, and in the state in which we would, in this part of the country, pull the corn blades. When I had the pleasure, some years ago, to be at the house of Mr. John Lewis, in Bath county, about the 10th September, out of a crop of 100 acres of corn, he had then cut and stacked fifty acres, and informed me he should continue until he had secured the whole in the same way; that he had repeatedly done it before, and that he was thoroughly satisfied that he did not make less corn than he would have done under the old management; that he had vastly more provender for cattle than he would have had in the common mode of saving the fodder, and there was a saving of half the labour. On my return to Albemarle, I mentioned to my neighbours what I had seen and heard, and suggested the benefit we might derive from pursuing the same practice: but the universal opinion was, that our corn would either rot or shrivel, if cut in that state. I had two experiments made the next year, but they were executed in the manner that such experiments usually are, by unwilling agents. In 1817, my loss of wheat by the fly was so great, particularly upon my late sown and badly prepared corn fields, that I determined, in future, to confine my seeding to land which I could sow in good time, and in good order. In the course of last winter, I had an opportunity of conversing with a gentleman (Wm. Steinbergen, Esq.) who had practised for many years the early cutting up of corn; his assurances were so positive as to the saving of labour, the security of the corn and the increase of feed for stock, that I determined to make the experiment this year upon a scale and in a way that would be conclusive, and in a place that others would have an opportunity of judging of it as well as myself. With this view, I selected a field in the fork of a very public road—the field was nearly square. I divided it into two equal parts, as nearly as I could by the eye, and had all the corn cut and stacked by the middle of September from that part of the field lying on and nearest the two roads. This field had been planted early in April, but the corn came up so badly that it was re-planted in May. The entire crop was from the re-planted corn. This circumstance, with an unusually dry season (the land not being thoroughly wet from the planting to the cutting up of the corn) caused the crop to be very late, when it was cut, except those parts of the field which had been manured. I thought the corn was rather green to make it safe to pull the fodder. My manager, Mr. Wm. S. Fowler, whose skill and judgment I relied very much upon in other things, expressed great reluctance at risking so much corn, and great apprehensions as to the result. Immediately after the corn was cut, and before it was all stacked, we had three days rain. The opinion of all who saw the corn, was, that the crop was ruined. About the middle of October, my people began to use it for hogs, and from the 10th to the 15th of November, the remainder was pulled and housed. The corn was found as good as that half of the field which was not cut; with an immense quantity of long forage for stock, not as good perhaps, as well cured blades, but greater in quantity and value than would have been had in the common way.

Upon a farm, where two-fifths of the land is in clover, as much hay, (a better food for horses than fodder) can be made, as the horses of a farm can require—This course is recommended by a great saving of time at the busiest season of the year, except harvest. I am confident the corn can be cut and stacked in half the time that will be required to save the blades and tops in the present mode. In fodder getting, the great consumption of time is in passing over the field so often row by row.—In the old method, this is done at least five times; in the new, the corn is cut and stacked at two operations. The hauling where every thing is removed from the field as it should be, is the same in the new and the old method; but the great and decided recommendation of it is that the land is better prepared, and the wheat sown in good time.

In the old method, about the middle of October is as soon as it is thought safe to cut and stack the corn. When the corn is stacked entire, the bottom of the stack is more open, and the ears are not pressed upon each other as they are when every thing is stripped from the stalk but the ear. If the preparations of the corn land commenced as late as the middle of October, the work, from the hurried manner in which it is done, is badly executed—and the seeding unavoidably delayed to too late a period; whereas by having our fallows in order by the time fodder is ripe, the whole preparation for seeding may be completed by the time it will be safe to sow. The mere seeding, when it is done with the harrow, as it should be upon well ploughed land, is quickly performed. These objects will be facilitated by planting a forward corn, that will ripen several weeks earlier than the corn which is generally cultivated. There is a difference of at least two weeks between a corn that is made by many of my neighbours in Albemarle, and considered a productive grain, which has an unusually small red cob) and the common corn of our country. Mr. Richard Sampson and Mr. Thomas M. Randolph (Tuckahoe) two valuable members of our society, recommend highly a forward corn they cultivate, which I believe was brought originally from the State of New York.—The practice above the mountains is to cut eight rows and leave eight. When the field is gone over in this way, they return and cut the remainder, which is put on the outsides of the stacks first secured: by this management the interior of the stack is better cured than if it all was stacked at once. I did not however, pursue this method; my corn was all cut at once, and it was intended to let it take a day's sun on the ground, seventeen rows being put together, and the corn stacked upon the middle row of the seventeen. I recommend this practice with great confidence but at the same time advise all those who are in the least sceptical to make the experiment upon a small scale, so that if they do not succeed, the loss will not be material. This caution will be observed by all prudent farmers, upon every occasion, where great changes are recommended to them. In the first experiment, let the quantity of corn, cut as early as I propose, be confined to what will be sufficient for fattening the hogs raised on the farm, and what will be necessary for consumption in the course of the fall. It will not escape an experienced farmer, that corn managed in this way, will be more secure from frost.

The outsides of the stalks will cure quickly, and the inner be impervious to frost.

The credit of this change in the management of corn, is due to the people of the South Branch of Potomac, who are as yet but little in the habit of making wheat, and derive no advantage from the culture of corn as a preparation for wheat. No circumstance can afford stronger evidence of the value of Agricultural Societies, than the fact, that in one part of this state a practice should have prevailed for more than thirty-five years, and be unknown to a vast majority of the people of Virginia, to whom it would be most useful. If I do not overrate its importance, there can be no doubt of its being of the greatest value to those who depend most upon their corn land for their wheat crops. Through this and other societies I flatter myself, there will be so rapid an interchange of information in future, that the benefit of an improvement in one part of our country will be speedily communicated to every part of it.

W. C. NICHOLAS.

When this paper was read to the Society, Mr. Steinbergen, from Shenandoah, and Mr. Mackie from Hardy, two highly respectable members of the Society, vouched for the good effects of the practice I have recommended, from 30 years experience. Upon the great points about which there could be any doubt, the testimony of these gentlemen must have been entirely satisfactory. They both confirmed my statement, that the grain was equally safe, and good, and that the value of the forage was increased, and a great saving of labour.

AN ADDRESS

To the "Maryland Agricultural Society" from the President,

ROBERT SMITH, Esquire

In this country agriculture ought to be considered, as the most honourable, as well as the most useful of all the employments of man. I was so esteemed by the wisest, the richest, and the most powerful nations of antiquity. The Egyptians, the Carthaginians, the Greeks and the Romans, as appears from every account, carried this all-important art to a degree of perfection unknown to us. At one period, however, from a coincidence of peculiar circumstances, the lands of Italy were neglected, as are, at this time, the lands of Maryland. The whole country was reduced to the utmost distress. So awful, indeed, was the crisis, as to require the interposition of the government. To a distinguished personage, universally admired for his knowledge and beloved for his virtues, application was made for his best endeavours to rouse the people from their lethargy and to excite, in them a passion for agriculture. The result of this application, was the publication of the celebrated Georgicks—a work, in which are to be found the best precepts and rules of husbandry, recommended in a style and manner the most charming and persuasive. Instantly was manifested a spirit of agricultural improvement, which soon diffused itself throughout the whole country.

Not having a Virgil to arouse us from our morbid indolence, our only practical expedient is the formation of well organized agricultural

societies. These institutions will, I trust, prove the salutary means of averting the impending calamities. Such associations afford opportunities of comparing the multifarious practices of the most judicious cultivators of the soil. They combine with the experience of the field the experiments of the laboratory. They furnish facilities, not only for acquiring, but for diffusing useful information. They promote the introduction of the best animals, seeds, plants, and implements of husbandry. They excite a laudable emulation. And thus, in their effects, they necessarily tend to accelerate the progress of agricultural knowledge. With a view to these important advantages, this society has been established.

In our estimate of the considerations, which ought to induce us to make an effort to restore fertility to the exhausted soil of Maryland, we cannot but duly appreciate its geographical and its other natural advantages. From its central position, exposed to the extremes of neither heat nor cold, we enjoy a most delightful climate. With such exceptions, as are applicable to most countries, our lands were originally very fertile; and they are, at this time, susceptible, not only of restoration, but of the highest degree of improvement. Our climate and soil are remarkably favourable to the growth of wheat, Indian corn, rye, oats, barley, clover, timothy, potatoes, turnips, and all culinary vegetables, and also to apples, pears, peaches, cherries and other fine fruits. The Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers afford to all the counties of the Eastern and to many of the Western Shore, incalculable advantages in the transportation of their produce to market. And the facilities, thus enjoyed, necessarily tend greatly to enhance the value of the lands of those counties.

Important, however, as are our natural advantages, it is to be regretted, that they have not been duly cherished. Our ancestors, finding themselves in possession of a soil rich, as they fancied, beyond the possibility of injury, employed, in the outset, all their forces in the cultivation of tobacco and Indian corn. They afterwards superinduced two other exhausting crops, wheat and oats. Under these destructive crops, without any intervening meliorating ones, our lands have been greatly injured; and, as a necessary consequence, our fortunes have been much impaired. These gloomy observations however, are not applicable to all our landed estates. From a personal knowledge of many, and from accurate information of the other counties, I have the proud satisfaction of saying, that in every county of our state are to be seen farms under a course of tillage, and husbandry, not excelled in any part of the United States. It nevertheless must be admitted that our estates have not, generally, been cultivated to the best advantage. But to what country, and especially to what new country, may not this remark be applied? Let us not, then, content ourselves in reproaching the practices of times past. Let our views be prospective. Let every man endeavour to the utmost of his power, to correct existing imperfections, and to introduce a better system. "Hoc opus, hic labor est."

In our advances towards improvement, the first requisite is a disposition to attend carefully to the practices of agriculturists of long experience and

of established reputation. In a comparative view of the variously managed estates of our country, it is observable, that, in every well conducted farm, there is a systematical rotation of crops. It, thence, may be assumed, as a postulate, that no farm can be profitably conducted without such a regular rotation. The question, then, which presents itself at the threshold, is, which rotation is the best? To this preliminary inquiry, no answer can be given that would suit universally. Much depends on circumstances, viz: the climate, the soil, the distance from the market, the size, the character of the farm, &c. &c. Every person, therefore, will form a system for himself, according to these circumstances.

In the best cultivated parts of Pennsylvania, their farms are generally divided into five fields, and the rotation of crops adopted by them is as follows, viz:

- 1st year—Indian corn
- 2d " —Oats
- 3d " —Wheat
- 4th " —Clover and Timothy for hay
- 5th " —Do. do. for pasturage.

In viewing every such farm, five fields are seen: one in Indian corn, one in oats, one in wheat, one in clover and timothy for hay, and one in clover for pasturage.

For their wheat ground they are in the habit of reserving all their stable manure made during the preceding winter.

To their Indian corn, oats and clover they apply plaster of paris.

Their oat-stubble, with a view to the sowing of wheat thereon, they plough in immediately after harvest, and the ground thus ploughed, they, in the fall, harrow well, and then they haul out, spread and plough in the manure as a preparation for the sowing of wheat.

The wheat ground is laid off in wide furrows, and the seed put in, not with a plough, but with a harrow.

The whole of their wheat ground is in the spring invariably sown with clover.

The second crop of clover is, by them, not pastured, but cut for the seed.

They have not, as was formerly their practice, particular pieces of ground, called meadows, exclusively devoted to the scythe.

Under this system, every farmer, small as well as great, is, in addition to his crop, able, and, in fact, is in the practice of selling every year a certain number of beeves. By these beeves he is, moreover, enabled to accumulate the requisite quantity of manure. And it is a fact worthy of notice, that, notwithstanding the richness of his soil, every such farmer sows with wheat only as much ground as he is then able to manure well, and that the extent of his wheat field is ever regulated by his heap of stable manure.

A proprietor of one of these farms, stating his average clear profits, assured me that all the work was performed by himself and one hired labourer. I expressed my surprise that such an amount of profits could proceed from the labours of two men. Don't you see, said he, pointing to a number of beeves in a clover field, how hard those fellows are working for me?—Such coadjutors are at the service of every man who will adopt a similar system of husbandry.

To the Pennsylvania rotation there may be

made this objection, viz: that three farinaceous crops, corn, oats, and wheat, follow each other. The injurious effects of such a succession, it may be inferred, reasoning *a posteriori*, have been abundantly obviated by the ploughing in of the oat stubble, and by the high manuring of their wheat ground. At all events, the Pennsylvanians cannot but be tenacious of their present system, as their farms, under it, exhibit no marks of deterioration, but on the contrary, every indication of progressive improvement.

Believing, as I do, that the lands of Maryland cannot be reclaimed, and of course that the fortunes of our farmers cannot be improved, but by adopting and pursuing a judicious rotation of crops, I shall take the liberty of submitting for consideration another system under which a farm would be divided into seven fields, viz:

- 1st year—Indian corn interspersed with as many pumpkins and beans as can grow to advantage, and the head lands in buck-wheat.
- 2d year—Swedish turnips in drills, or part in Swedish turnips and part in potatoes.
- 3d year—Spring Barley, or oats, or both.
- 4th—Wheat.
- 5th year—Clover and Timothy for hay.
- 6th year—Clover and Timothy for pasturage, or to be cut for soiling.
- 7th year—Rye.

As Indian corn is a hungry feeder; as for its manure cannot be too coarse or too abundant, it is recommended that the manure of the farm yard, made in the course of the preceding winter, be every spring, applied to the corn field, and be well covered by the plough. This is deemed preferable to the practice of reserving it for the autumn. In the latter case it is exposed to the injuries of the sun, the winds, and the rains during the whole summer, and is, moreover, during all that time, altogether inoperative. In the former case it is protected from those injuries, and, at the same time, is operative in greatly augmenting a valuable crop. Indian corn, under this practice, has, to my knowledge, been extremely luxuriant. But in sowing oats, the ensuing spring, upon such corn fields, there has been every year a mortifying disappointment. The ground in every instance, proved to be too rich for oats, and was, moreover, crowded with multitudes of weeds. The experience of these vexatious evils has suggested the idea of an intervening crop of Swedish turnips in drills, or turnips and potatoes, with a view to the clearing of the ground, as well as to the obtaining of valuable roots, that delight in a rich soil.

This proposed rotation of crops would tend to clean, as well as to improve ground. It would, it is believed, eventually eradicate even garlic itself. It would, moreover, furnish the great desideratum, a regular supply of both summer and winter food for all kinds of stock.

In undertaking to reclaim an exhausted farm there will be experienced no serious difficulties but in the beginning. And these difficulties will proceed altogether from the deficiency of winter and summer food for the maintenance of the stock necessary to produce the requisite manure. Effectual measures, then, must, in the outset, be taken to provide clover or other artificial grasses, for hay in winter and for pasturage or for soiling in summer, and also a plentiful supply of pump-

kins and Swedish turnips for food during the autumn, winter and spring months.

Stable manure is confessedly an essential, indispensable article. Without it the farmer labours in vain. To obtain it he must have a competent number of neat cattle and other stock. And to maintain such a stock he must have an adequate supply of summer and winter food. It hence results, that no rotation of crops can produce the desired effect, unless it ensure a competent supply of winter and summer food for the maintenance of such neat cattle and other stock, as may be sufficient to make all the manure necessary for the progressive improvement of the farm.

From the Practical American Gardener.

[Published by Fielding Lucas, jun.]

For the Month of August.

Water Cresses.

Sow the seed in a watery or moist place; they are not to be cut the first year.

Spinach.

In the last week of this month, sow a principal crop of the prickly seeded spinach, for early spring use; this ought to be sown on a dry soil. A second sowing will be necessary, in the first week of September.

Turnips.

The first week in this month is a suitable time to sow the principal crop of turnips, for autumn and winter use, whether in the garden or field. In the eastern states the last sowing ought to be in the first week of this month. In the southern states they may be sown later.

Artichokes.

The late spring planting of artichokes, should now be treated, as directed for the older plants as before directed.

Asparagus.

Asparagus must now be kept perfectly clean from weeds, but particularly those planted last spring, and also the seeding beds, by careful hand weeding.

Celery.

Transplant into trenches, a full crop of late celery, as early in the month as possible, agreeably to directions as given before.

Earth up the advancing crops as directed before.

Peas.

A crop of the early peas may be sown, from the first to the tenth of the month. If the weather prove dry, soak the peas, and water them, as directed before.

Kidney Beans.

Early in this month you may plant a crop of the dwarf kidney beans. If the ground be dry at the time, the drills ought to be watered, and the beans soaked in soft water, four or five hours before planting.

Carolina and Lima Beans.

Hoe and clean between the rows of these, and cut off any runners, that trail on the surface of the ground which only tend to rob the bearing vines.

Parsnips.

About the fifteenth of the month, in the middle and eastern states, a bed of parsnips may be sown in drills as before directed. These will come up this fall and they may be wed with a

hoe, and kept clean from weeds and in the spring thin them as before directed. Should any run up for seed (which they seldom will) these may be pulled out. The ground should be previously trenched two spades deep, and well manured.

Herbs.

Cut such herbs as are now in flower to distil, or to dry for winter use; always perform this, when they are dry, and spread them in a dry shady place.

Collecting seeds.

As the different kinds of seeds ripen, gather them in dry weather, and manage them as directed last month.

Spinach.

Prepare some ground, and sow a crop of the smooth round seeded kind, to be sown in the first week of the month; these will be fit for use in September. Sow more in the second week, which will be good in October.

In the last week of this month, sow the first principal crop of the prickly seeded spinach, for early spring use; this ought to be sown on a dry gravelly soil, for on such it will stand the winter better than on any other. With this sowing, scatter a few seeds of brown Dutch or cabbage lettuce.

Dung or Compost Heaps and Weed Heaps.

The dung and compost heaps, during the summer months, should be kept free from weeds; for if the seeds are permitted to ripen and fall, the dung, when carried into the garden, will poison the whole ground.

The manure produced by the heaps of weeds taken out of the garden, should not be introduced therein again, until it is three or four years old.

General Remarks.

Continue to weed all young crops in wet weather then the weeds will come up readily by the roots; water the crops, particularly the young ones, in dry weather, three or four times a week, before sun-rise and particularly after sun-set; clear away the stalks and rubbish of old crops; take showery weather for planting, and dry weather for earthing up plants.

Southern States.

In the southern states, particularly the Carolinas and Georgia, this month being in the commencement of their rainy season, it is common to sow cauliflowers, cabbage, parsnip, onion, leek, &c. in short, the general variety of seeds, that are sown in the middle states, in the months of March and April; these kinds arrive there in a tolerable degree of perfection, before their winter sets in, which is so very mild as scarcely to injure any of their esculent crops, and such of them as do not arrive at maturity before winter, attain it early in the spring.

Fig Trees.

The wall and espalier fig trees will now be ripening their fruit; they should be kept regularly trained but the knife must not be used except to irregular shoots, as from those of this season's growth fruit is to be expected next year, and these bearing principally towards the extremities, ought not to be shortened.

General Observations.

Have the same care to the orchard, as directed.

Such of your standard peach and other trees, as are over burthened with fruit, and likely to break

down, should be supported with props, to which such loaded branches should be bound with bands of hay, taking care to place some between the branch and stake, lest the bark should be injured. These supports should be taken away, as soon as the fruit is off.

All kinds of seedling trees and shrubs, must now be kept perfectly clear from weeds; in dry weather, be careful to water them frequently, whether in beds, boxes, or pots.

Hoe the ground well between the rows of trees; and train up the various sorts of forest trees and shrubs; but leave some small shoots to detain the sap, for the strengthening of those parts.

Towards the end of this month prepare the ground for autumn planting, and begin to clear and trench these vacant places, where you intend to plant trees or shrubs of any kind, in October or November, &c.

If the land be of a stiff nature, lay it up in high sloping ridges, by exposing more surface to the sun, rain, and dews, which will greatly improve it, and it can by this means be the more expeditiously levelled down, and rendered in a condition fit for planting when necessary.

Budding or Inoculating.

It will answer at this season, to bud peaches, nectarines, almonds, apples, and pears, also apricots on peach or almond stalks; but when the apricot is to be budded on the plum, it ought to be done in July.

Cherries, plums, or any other fruit trees, may be budded this month, if the bark parts freely from the stock. Pears and apples must be inoculated early in the month, while the sap flows freely; but the peach, nectarine, and almond, will succeed any time between the first of August and twentieth of September, provided the stocks are young and vigorous.

You may now inoculate all such curious trees and shrubs as you wish to propagate in that way, almost all will succeed, if budded on suitable stocks; but when the bark will not part freely, it will be fruitless to attempt it. Many sorts now have a second growth, and when that is the case, it will answer to bud them.

Newly Budded Trees.

Carefully examine the stocks, which were budded in June and July, loosen the bandages, and where any shoots are produced below the buds, rub them off; cut off all shoots, which are produced below the inoculation or grafts.

Preserve Stones of Fruit.

Peach, plum, and apricot, and cherry stones should be carefully collected, to plant for raising stocks. Plant them immediately in the seed-beds, and you may continue to collect and plant, till the ground is frozen, for although it will answer to plant them in spring, in case of necessity, yet very few will vegetate then.

Carnations and Pinks.

Transplant the layers and pipings of carnations and pinks, which are sufficiently rooted, and treat them as directed.

Auriculas and Polyanthuses.

Such of the choice auriculas, as were not put into new pots in April and May, may now be so transplanted.

You may take off any strong slips, that have fibres attached to them, and plant them as there directed. All the auriculas will require at this season, to be screened from the mid-day sun, but have the benefit of the morning sun till nine o'clock, and that of the afternoon after four.

Polyanthuses require similar attention as the auriculas.

Transplant the seedlings of both, as directed for auriculas seedling in April.

Transplanting Seedlings, Biennials and Perennials.

Transplant into nursery beds, the young plants of the various kinds of biennial and perennial flowers, that are of a proper size, or they may be planted, where they are finally to remain. The wall flower and stock gillflower, in the middle states, requiring protection in winter, you will attend to directions before given:

Removing Pæonias, Flag Irises.

This month take up, separate, and transplant the roots of pæonias, flag Irises, or any other hardy kinds of tuberous rooted flowers, whose leaves are now decayed. When the roots are taken up, the small offsets should be separated and planted in beds for an increase; the large roots re-planted where designed to flower. Each kind to be planted from three to four inches deep.

Propagating Fibrous Rooted Perennial Plants.

Most of the early flowering fibrous rooted plants, whose flower stems were directed to be cut down in June or July, will, in the course of the month, send forth new suckers from the roots; such may be carefully taken off, and planted in nursery beds, or the whole roots may, towards the end of the month, be taken up, and divided into many plants, taking care that each one be furnished with roots. Trim them neatly before planting, and set them in a shady border, where they can be covered with mats, &c. till rooted. Water them immediately, and repeat it occasionally, till they are in a full growing state.

Pinks, sweet-williams, rose campoin, scarlet lychnises, primroses, double daisies, double perennial catchfly, phloxes, campanulas, violets, dracocephalums, and various other kinds may now be propagated in this way.

Seeds of Bulbous Rooted Flowers.

The seeds of tulips, hyacinths, narcissuses, irises, crown imperials, fritillaries, and lillies or of any other kinds of bulbs, whose seeds are ripe, may now be sown, in order to obtain new varieties. These, if sown as soon, after being ripe, as they are sufficiently dry and hardened, will vegetate the ensuing spring; but if kept out of the ground till spring, very few of them will come up for a full year after.

Sow the seeds separately in boxes filled with good garden mould, till within two or three inches of the top, which should be of compost—as before directed in No. 1, Shrubbery, or that in Flower Garden. Sow the seeds thick, and cover them with compost about half an inch deep. The depth of earth in the box, should be at least one foot; the bottoms of the boxes perforated with holes, each about an inch in diameter, and covered with shells, to allow the extra moisture to pass off. The boxes to be placed in a warm situation, kept free from weeds, and protected from frost by a slight covering of mats, till the spring when the plants will appear. Early in May, place the

boxes in the shade, but not under trees, and in dry weather, give them a very small portion of water. In June, when the leaves are decayed, sift half an inch of earth over that in the boxes, and on the approach of winter, protect them from frost as before. Continue the same treatment winter and summer, till the month of July, in the third year; the roots may then be taken up, dried, and treated, as directed for large bulbs or off-sets. A few of the strongest roots will flower the fourth year, about one half may flower the fifth, and in the sixth year, every healthy root will bloom. In this method, all the curious varieties are raised, and if one valuable new flower is produced from hundreds thus propagated, the florist exults.

Plants in Pots.

Such plants as are in pots, require to be watered frequently; some kinds requiring it twice a day, in very dry weather, others once a day; a few sorts not so often. There is a surprising difference in the constitution of plants, with respect to the consumption of water, some absorbing and discharging it quickly, others very slow; you must therefore be governed by circumstances, in your supplying them with water.

General Observations.

Give water as often as necessary, to all the young plantations of herbaceous flower roots; cut down the stems of such as are past bloom; loosen the earth in the tops of all the pots, containing flowering plants; trim and tie up any loose or straggling plants.

Gather flower seeds as they ripen, and preserve them till the season of sowing; most kinds will keep better in their pods or husks, than when rubbed out.

Propagating Plants.

You may continue to propagate the plants, by cuttings, layers, and suckers, as directed in former months.

Budding Oranges, Lemons, &c.

Any time this month, oranges, lemons, citrons, &c. &c. may be budded, the operation must be performed upon each tree, when it puts forth its first autumn shoots; some trees even the same species will shoot earlier than others, and as soon as a few of them are grown to two or three inches in length, choose that time to bud them, as the sap is then in a fresh state of circulation, the bark of the stock will separate freely for the admission of the bud, and the necessary nourishment will be supplied.

The buds must be taken from shoots produced in the early part of the present season. The most suitable stocks are those raised from the kernels of either of the species. For the method of budding, see as before directed.

After budding, place them in the shade, for three or four weeks.

Cut off oranges, lemons, jasmins and other exotics, which were inarched in April or May, provided they are sufficiently united.

Shifting and giving fresh Earth to the Plants.

The critical period for the summer shifting into large pots, such of the green house plants, as are too much confined, is after they have perfected their spring or summer shoots, and before they begin to push their autumn growth; this is generally to be done in the first week of this

month. Perform this operation as before directed.

Such pots, in which the earth is hard or stiff must have it loosened, taken out, and some compost added; pick off any decayed leaves, and trim disorderly branches, which will give a fresh appearance and beauty to the collection, as also promote the vigorous growth of the plants.

Water the Plants.

Carefully attend to the watering of all the plants, giving it as often as necessary; and in proportion to the consumption of each; always administering it sparingly to succulent kinds.

Water should be poured occasionally through the nose of a watering pot, over the branches of the shrubby kinds, which will wash the dust off from the leaves, and refresh them greatly; this should be done in the evening, near sun-setting.

Earth Burning.

Several of our subscribers have reminded us of a promise we made in a preceding number, to publish in the *American Farmer*, such observations as we should meet with in the course of our reading, on *Earth burning*, to make manure.—Having in a great measure disposed of original communications, we have embodied in this number, what has appeared to us most explicit and satisfactory on the subject. There is no doubt, as well from the manifest reason of the thing itself, as from the concurrent testimony of those who have proved its utility, that the burning of earth of a particular kind, under many circumstances, is highly to be recommended, not only as a means of reducing the sod, and by that means effectually cleaning rough land; but also as a resource for obtaining a species of manure, highly favorable to the growth of certain vegetables. Our readers may judge, therefore, for themselves, on what kind of land this operation may be most advantageously applied, and under what circumstances, it is most advisable to have recourse to it; and to what species of crop it is likely to be most propitious in its effects. We here submit from all we have seen, what seems to be most worthy of attention; and first we copy from 'COBBETT'S YEAR'S RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES' all that he has there said as to *Earth Burning*.

As to the quantity and sort of manure to be used in general, it may be the same as for a sowing of Rye, or of Wheat. I should prefer ashes; but my large crops in England, were on yard dung, first thrown into a heap, and afterwards turned once or twice in the usual manner as practised in England. At Hyde Park I had nothing but *rakings up*, about the yard, barn, &c. as described before. What I should do, and what I shall do this year, is, to make ashes out of dirt, or earth of any sort, not very stony. Nothing is so easy as this, especially in this fine climate. I see people go with their wagons five miles for *Soaper's ashes*; that is to say *spent ashes*, which they purchase at the landing place (for they come to the Island in vessels) at the rate of about five dollars for forty bushels. Add the expense of land carriage, and the forty bushels do not cost less than *ten dollars*. I am of opinion, that, by the burning of earth, as much manure may be got upon the land for half a dollar. I made an experiment last summer, which convinces me, that, if the spent ashes, be received as a gift, at three miles distant of land carriage, they are not a gift worth accepting of. But, this experiment was upon a small scale; and therefore, I will not now speak positively on the subject.

"I am now preparing to make a perfect trial of these ashes. I have just ploughed up a piece of ground, in which a few years ago, Indian Corn was planted, and produced as I am assured, only stalks; and those not more than two feet high. The ground has, every year since, borne a crop of weeds, rough grass and briars or brambles. The piece is about ten

acres. I intend to have Indian Corn in it, and, my manure shall be made on the spot, and consist of nothing but burnt earth. If I have a decent crop of Indian Corn on this land, so manured, it will I think puzzle my good neighbours to give a good reason for their going five miles for spent ashes.

"Whether I succeed or not, I will give an account of my experiment. This I know that, in the year 1815, burnt ashes, in one heap, to the amount of about two hundred English cart-loads, each load holding about forty bushels. I should not suppose that the burning cost me more than five dollars; and there they were upon the spot in the very field, where they were used. As to their effect, I used them for transplanting *Ruta Baga* and *Mangle Wurtzel*, and they produced full as great an effect as the yard dung used in the same land. This process of burning earth into ashes, without suffering the smoke to escape, during any part of the process, is a discovery of Irish origin. It was pointed out to me by Mr. W. M. GAUNTLETT, of Winchester late a commissary with the army in Spain. To this gentleman I also owe England owes, and I hope America will owe, the best sort of hogs, that I believe are in the world. I was wholly unacquainted with Mr. GAUNTLETT, till the summer of 1815, when happening to pass by my farm, he saw my hogs, cows, &c. and when he came to my house he called, and told me, that he had observed, that I wanted only a good sort of hogs to make my stock complete. I thought that I already had the finest in England; and I certainly had a very fine breed, the father of which, with legs not more than about six inches long weighed when he was killed, twenty-seven score, according to our Hampshire mode of stating hog meat weight; or five hundred and forty pounds. This breed has been fashioned by Mr. Woods, of Woodman cot, in Sussex, who has been, I believe, more than twenty years about it. I thought it perfection itself; but, I was obliged to confess that Mr. Gauntlett's surpassed it.

"Of the earth burning I will give an account in my next part of this work. Nothing is easier, of performance; and the materials are every where to be found.

I have spoken of a mode of procuring manure (as you can see above) by the burning of earth, and I proposed to try it this present year. This I have now done, and I proceed to give an account of the result.

I have tried the efficacy of this manure on Cabbages, Swedish Turnips, Indian Corn, and Buckwheat. In the three former cases, the ashes were put into the furrow and the earth was turned over them, in the same way that I have described above. With regard to the manure for Savoy's. I put at the rate of about twenty tons weight to an acre. In the case of the Buckwheat, the ashes were spread out of the wagon upon a little strip of land on the outside of the piece. They were thickly spread: and it might be that the proportion exceeded even thirty tons to the acre. But, upon the part where the ashes were spread, the buckwheat was three or four times as good as upon the land adjoining. The land was very poor. It bore buckwheat last year, without any manure. It had two good ploughings then, and it had two good ploughings again this year, but had no manure, except the part above-mentioned and one other part at a great distance from it. So that the trial was very fair indeed.

In every instance, the ashes produced great effect; and I am now quite certain, that any crop may be raised with the help of this manure: that is to say, any sort of crop; for of dung, wood-ashes, and earth-ashes, when all are ready upon the spot, without purchase or carting from a distance, the two former are certainly to be employed in preference to the latter, because a smaller quantity of them will produce the same effect, and, of course, the application of them is less expensive. But, in taking to a farm unprovided with the two former; or under circumstances, which make it profitable to add to the land under cultivation, what can be so convenient, what so cheap as ashes procured in this way?

A near neighbour of mine Mr. DAYEA, sowed a piece of Swedish Turnips, broad-cast in June, this year. The piece was near a wood, and there was a great quantity of clods of a grassy description. These he burnt into ashes, which ashes he spread over one half of the piece, while he put *Soaper's ashes* over the other part of the piece. I saw the Turnips in October; and there was no visible difference in the two parts, whether as to the vigorousness of the plants or the bulk of the Turnips.—They were sown broad-cast and stood unevenly upon the ground. They were harvested a month ago, (it is now 26th of November,) which was a month too early. They would have been a third at least, more in bulk, and much better in quality, if they had remained in the ground until now. The piece was seventy paces long and seven paces wide; and the reader will find, that, as the piece produced forty bushels, this was at the rate of four hundred bushels to the acre.

What quantity of earth-ashes were spread on this piece it is impossible to ascertain with precis on, but I shall suppose the quantity to have been very large indeed in proportion to the surface of the land. Let it be four times the quantity of the Soaper's ashes. Still, the one was made upon the spot, at, perhaps, a tenth part of the cost of the other; and, as such ashes can be made upon any farm, there can be no reason for not trying the thing, at any rate, and which trying may be effected upon so small a scale as not to exceed in expense a half of a dollar. I presume, that many farmers will try this method of obtaining manure; and, therefore, I will describe how the burning is effected.

There are two ways of producing ashes from earth. The one is in heaps upon the ground and the other within walls of turf or earth. The first, indeed, is the usual way of burning of turf, or peat. But, let us see how it is done.

The surface of the land is taken off to a depth of two or three inches, and turned the earth side uppermost to dry. The land, of course, is covered with grass or heath, or something, the roots of which hold it together, and which makes the part taken off take the name of turf. In England, this operation is performed with a turf-cutter, and by hand. The turfs are then taken, or a part of them, at least, and placed on their edges, leaning against each other, like the two sides of the roof of a house. In this state they remain till they are dry enough to burn. Then the burning is begun in this way. A little straw and some dry sticks; or any thing that will make a trifling fire, is lighted. Some little bits of the turf is put to this. When the turf is on fire, more bits are carefully put round against the openings whence the smoke issues. In the course of a day or two the heap grows large. The burning keeps working on the inside, though there never appears any blaze. Thus the field is studded with heaps. After the first fire is got to be of considerable bulk, no straw is wanted for other heaps, because a good shovel full of fire can be carried to light other heaps, and so on, until the heaps are lighted. Then the workman goes from heap to heap, and carries the turf to all, by degrees, putting some on each heap every day or two, until all the field be burned. He takes care to keep in the smoke as much as possible. When all the turf is put on, the field is left; and, in a week or two, whether it rain or not, the heaps are ashes instead of earth. The ashes are afterwards spread upon the ground; the ground is ploughed and sowed and this is regarded as the very best preparation for a crop of Turnips.

This is called "*paring and burning*." It was introduced into England, by the Romans, and it is strongly recommended in the First Georgic of Virgil, in, as Mr. Tull shows, very fine poetry, very bad philosophy, and still worse logic. It gives three or four crops even upon poor land, but it ruins the land for an age. Hence it is that tenants in England are, in many cases, restrained from paring and burning, especially towards the close of their leases. It is the Roman husbandry, which has always been followed, until within a century, by the French and English.

It is implicitly followed in France to this day; as it is by the great mass of common farmers in England. All the foolish country sayings about Friday being an unlucky day to begin any thing fresh upon; about the noise of geese foreboding bad weather; about the signs of the stars; about the influence of the moon on animals: these, and scores of others, equally ridiculous and equally injurious to true philosophy and religion, came from the Romans, and are inculcated in these books, which pedants call "classical," and which are taught to "young gentlemen" at the universities and academies. Hence, too, the foolish notions of sailors about Friday, which notions very often retard the operations of commerce. I have known many a farmer, when his wheat was dead ripe, put off the beginning of harvest from Thursday to Saturday, in order to avoid Friday. The stars save hundreds of thousands of lambs and pigs from sexual degradation at so early an age as the operation would otherwise be performed upon them. These heathen notions still prevail even in America, as far as relates to this matter. A neighbour of mine in Long Island, who was to operate on some pigs and lambs for me, begged me to put the thing off for a while, for that the *Almanac* told him, that the signs were just then, as unfavourable as possible. I begged him to proceed, for that I set all stars at defiance. He very kindly complied, and had the pleasure to see, that every pig and lamb did well. He was surprised when I told him this mysterious matter was not only a bit of priestcraft, but of heathen priestcraft, cherished by priests of a more modern date, because it tended to bewilder the senses, and to keep the human mind in subjection. "What a thing it is," said I, "that a cheat practised upon the Pagans of Italy, two or three thousand years ago, should, by Almanac-Makers, be practised upon a sensible farmer in America!" If priests, instead of preaching so much about mysteries, were to explain to their hearers the origin of cheats like this, one might be ready to allow that the wages paid to them were not wholly thrown away.

I make no apology for this digression; for, if it have a tendency to set the minds of only a few persons on the track of detecting the cheatery of priests, the room which it occupies will have been well bestowed.

To return to *paring and burning*: the reader will see with what ease it might be done in America, where the sun would do more than half the work. Besides the *paring* might be done with the plough. A sharp shear, going shallow, would do the thing perfectly well. Cutting across would make the land into turfs.

So much for *paring and burning*. But what I recommend is, not to burn the land which is to be cultivated, but *other earth*, for the purpose of getting ashes to be brought on the land. And this operation, I thus perform. I make a circle, or an oblong square. I cut sods and build a wall round three feet thick, and four feet high. I then light a fire in the middle with straw, dry sticks, boughs, or such like matter. I go on making this fire larger and larger, till it extend over the whole bottom of the pit, or kiln. I put on roots of trees or any rubbish wood, till there be a good thickness of strong coals. I then put on the *driest* of the clods that I have ploughed up round about, so as to cover all the fire over. The earth thus put in will burn. You will see the smoke coming out at little places here and there. Put more clods wherever the smoke appears. Keep on thus for a day or two. By this time a great mass of fire will be in the inside. And now you may dig out the clay, or earth, any where round the kiln, and fling it on without ceremony, always taking care to keep in the smoke; for, if you suffer that to continue coming out at any one place, a hole will soon be made; the main force of the fire will draw to that hole; a blaze, like that of a volcano, will come out, and the fire will be extinguished.

A very good way, is to put your finger into the top of the heap here and there; and if you find the fire very near, throw on more earth. Not too much at a time, for that weighs too heavily on the fire, and keeps it back; and, at first will put it partially out.

You keep on thus augmenting the kiln, till you get to the top of the walls, and then you may, if you like, raise the walls, and still go on. No rain will affect the fire, when once it is become strong.

The principle is to keep out air, whether at the top or the sides, and this you are sure to do, if you keep in the smoke. I burnt, this last summer, about thirty wagon loads in one round kiln, and never saw the smoke at all after the first four days. I put in my finger to try whether the fire was near the top; and when I found it approaching, I put on more earth. Never was a kiln more completely burnt.

Now, this may be done on the skirt of any wood, where the matters are all at hand. This mode is far preferable to the *above ground burning in heaps*. Because in the next place, the smoke escapes there, which is the finest part of the burnt matter. Soot, we know well, is more powerful than ashes, and soot is composed of the *grossest parts of the smoke*. That which flies out of the chimney is the best part of all.

In case of a want of wood wherewith to begin the fire, the fire may be lighted precisely as in the case of *paring and burning*. If the kiln be large, the oblong square is the best figure. About ten feet wide, because then a man can fling the earth easily over every part. The mode they pursue in England, when there is no wood, is to make a sort of building in the kiln with turfs and leave air holes at the corners of the walls, till the fire be well begun. But this is tedious work; and is in this country wholly unnecessary. Care must, however, be taken, that the fire be well lighted. The matter put in at first should be such as is of the lightest description; so that a body of earth on fire may be obtained, before it be too heavily loaded.

The burning being completed, having got the quantity you want, let the kiln remain. The fire will continue to work, until all is ashes. If you want to use the ashes sooner, open the kiln. They will be cold enough to remove in a week.

Some persons have *peat*, or bog earth. This may be burnt like common earth, in kilns, or dry as in the *paring and burning* method. Only, the *peat* should be cut out in the shape of bricks, or, as much longer and bigger as you find convenient, and set up to dry in the same way that bricks are set to dry previous to the burning. This is the only fuel for houses in some parts of England. I myself was nursed and brought up without ever seeing any sort of fire. The ashes used, in those times, to be sold for 4d sterling a bushel, and were frequently carried, after the purchase, to a distance of ten miles, or more. At this time in my own neighbourhood, in Hampshire, *peat* is burnt in large quantities, for the ashes, which are sold, I believe as high as six-pence sterling a bushel, and carried to a distance of even twenty miles in some cases.

Nevertheless it is certain, that these ashes are not equally potent upon every sort of soil. We do not use them much at Botley, though upon the spot. They are carried away to the higher and poorer lands, where they are sown by hand upon clover and sain foin. An excellent farmer, in this Island, assures me that he has tried them in various ways, and never found them to have any effect. So say the farmers near Botley. But, there is no harm in making a trial. It is done with a mere nothing of expense. A yard square in a garden is quite sufficient for the experiment.

With respect to earth-ashes, burnt in kilns, keeping in the smoke, I have proved their great good effect; but, still I would recommend trying them upon a small scale. However let it be borne in mind, that the proportion to the acre ought to be large. Thirty good tons to an acre; and why may it not be such, seeing that the expense is so trifling?

This subject will hereafter be continued, from other authors.

The Virginia Agricultural Society, of which Mr. Madison is the President, have eclipsed the whole and exceeded all other examples in any age or country—they have, it is said, promulgated to pay four

years hence, \$10,000 for the best farm in that State; not less than 500 acres; \$5,000 dollars for the next—\$2,000 dollars for the third best—the latter not less than 200 and 100 acres. N. H. Patriot.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1819.

COMMUNICATION.

FRIEND SKINNER.

As you Editors are knowing men, and have recommended economy as an effectually remedy for the distresses of the times; I will thank you to descend to particulars, and tell us Farmers how we are to practice it. As far as depends on myself, I do very well. You have no notion how much I save by sitting in the dark of an evening; drinking rye coffee; and using molasses instead of sugar. But, where others are concerned, I do not get on so well. My neighbour Swankey, tells me, that "it takes, two at least to make a bargain," and I find that he is more than half right. I am baulked in my schemes of economy, by my tradesmen, Mr. *Sup*, Mr. *Crispin* and Mr. *Raccoon*, who still demand war prices for articles in their line. A few weeks ago, finding "the devil to pay among the tailors" in your renowned city, I thought it would be a good time to get a new coat, the one I have on, not being able to bear another turning; so I called on Mr. *Sup*, and, by way of putting him in a good humour, rubbed out all old scores; but, would you believe it? he had the conscience to ask me \$42 50 for one, notwithstanding the late rebellion of the journeymen, so I have to wear the old coat still. Why, sir, the wool of forty merinoes, (which by the by, is twenty more than I have) would not pay him for a suit of broadcloth at this rate; and it will take the carcasses, as well as wool, of nine of my fat lambs, to buy me a hat and a pair of half boots, articles that I must use, whether I am curtailed at Bank or not, and then, (having no relations to quarter on in town,) when I go up to sell my *craps*, or to meet the Agricultural Society, I am under the necessity of visiting "mine Host of the Garter," where I make nothing of devouring a whole pig for dinner, a sheep a day, or "taking the hog rounne," sixteen pounds of bacon; half a bushel of white wheat, buys me half a pint (so called) of wine; a bushel of corn, half a pint of whiskey; while a bushel of oats, with the aid of five cents in cash, pays for a night's lodging. For a pound of butter, I get my shoes blacked twice, and for a peck of new potatoes, I get three drinks of grog; it will, however, require a bushel soon, for the same purpose.

As the good old times of barter and exchange appear to be coming round, it may be well for you to give your worthy readers, who are not generally great calculators, some information on this head; for instance, how much flower they ought to bring for a week's expenses: at present, I should suppose, that a strong *Montgomery*-team, would take enough to last, with good management, a fortnight; sixty bushels of wheat, or a score and a half of pretty good sheep, might answer the same end. If you should think it more advisable, you might recommend an *assorted cargo*, according to the demand. As the stage fare from Washington to Baltimore, has got down to \$5, which I can pay with ten bushels of corn, you may soon expect to see me. Your friend, Montgomery. July 20, 1819, CORNPLANTER.

Current Prices, ascertained by actual sales last week.

TOBACCO—has rather declined since last week—fine wagon Tobacco sold yesterday, for 14 dolls. and some tobacco from Calvert County from 8 and 10 dolls.—we could hear of no sales of Virginia tobacco for some considerable time past—WHEAT. A few hundred bushels of red wheat, from Cecil, sold on the 20th inst. for 1 25—white corn, 59 cents.

The staple articles of North Carolina have not varied since our last report of them, nor is there any material difference in the price of any other production reported in the last number of the *Am. Farmer*.